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09/889,022	03/25/2002	Toshihiro Morita	275729US6PCT	4603
22850 7590 10/21/2008 OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				
EXAMINER GARG, YOGESH C				
ART UNIT 3625		PAPER NUMBER		
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Information Disclosure Statement

1. The two foreign references "AS" and "AT" in the IDS filed 7/10/2001 have been considered. A review of the file reveals that the IDS filed July 10, 2001 included an English-language version of International Search Report (ISR) for International application No. PCT/JP00/07973 (the International application from which this National Stage application takes priority). Such ISR listed both references identified as "AS" and "AT" in the IDS filed July 10, 2001 and included "A" indication associated with each which implies that the cited references merely define the general state of the art but no particular relevance to the claims. Accordingly, the IDS is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3)(i). It is also noted (upon a thorough review of the file) that the IDS filed July 10, 2001 is fully compliant with 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
2. Relevant 1449 form is enclosed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yogesh C. Garg whose telephone number is 571-272-6756. The examiner can normally be reached on Increased Flex/Hoteling.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A. Smith can be reached on 571-272-6763. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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